

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070138  
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DRAFTED BY EA/EX:TSOLITARIO/S/CPR:MKEATING

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-----045873 182343Z /61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS STATE 070138

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PDIP, AFSP

SUBJECT:IMPORTATION PRIVILEGES ACCORDED TO ALIEN MEMBERS  
OF THAI DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS  
IN US

REF: TAMBONE/MORAN TELECON MARCH 14, 1978

1. USG PROVIDES EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES AND INTERNAL  
REVENUE TAX, IF ANY, ON IMPORTED GOODS FOR PERSONAL USE  
OF THAI DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR OFFICERS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES ON A CONTINUING BASIS THROUGHOUT THEIR PERIOD  
OF ASSIGNMENT IN THE US. TWO NEW CARS MAY ALSO BE  
ADMITTED DUTY-FREE FOR PERSONAL OR FAMILY USE IN A  
THREE YEAR PERIOD.

2. IN THE CASE OF NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND CONSULAR  
EMPLOYEES IN THE US, EXEMPTIONS FROM CUSTOMS AND  
RELATED CHARGES ARE PROVIDED, ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY,  
FOR ARTICLES (EXCLUDING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO  
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PAGE 02 STATE 070138

PRODUCTS, ETC.) IMPORTED WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THEIR  
INITIAL ARRIVAL TO TAKE UP DUTIES. ONE AUTOMOBILE MAY  
BE IMPORTED DUTY-FREE PER TOUR OF DUTY.

3. DEPT HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAI EMBASSY COMMISSARY  
OPERATION. SHOULD EMBASSY INQUIRE ABOUT ESTABLISHING  
A COMMISSARY, IT WOULD BE ADVISED THAT US CUSTOMS

REGULATIONS PRECLUDE DUTY AND TAX-FREE ENTRY OF ARTICLES  
INTENDED FOR RESALE.

4. EVEN THOUGH THAILAND IS NOT SIGNATORY TO THE VIENNA  
CONVENTIONS, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND VIRGINIA  
ACCORD EXEMPTION FROM THEIR SALES TAX TO PERSONNEL OF  
THE THAI EMBASSY WHO ARE SENT TO THE U.S. TO BE  
SPECIFICALLY EMPLOYED BY THE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, IN  
MARYLAND, CHILDREN OF DIPLOMATS AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
TECHNICAL STAFF MEMBERS ARE NOT EXEMPTED FROM SALES  
TAX.

5. NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA DO NOT EXTEND EXEMPTION  
FROM SALES TAX TO CONSULAR OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES OF  
SENDING STATE NOT A PARTY TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION.

6. LACK OF SALES TAX PRIVILEGES DO NOT AFFECT CUSTOMS  
PRIVILEGES. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, ALIENS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, AFSP, TH, US  
**To:** BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
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